

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, September 5, 2017, 6:00 p.m, Old Schoolhouse Common

Present: Selectboard members Laurie Colgan and Chris Martin; Town Clerk Bobbi Brimblecombe; Jonathan Williams, Rebecca Wigg, Vivian Davis

At 6:00 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Chair Chris Martin

Changes or additions to the agenda: Leibold cows, water on Johnson Road

Public Comment: Rebecca Wigg and Jonathan Williams addressed the Selectboard about the recent site visit that was conducted as part of the safety audit of the Cabot Road. Rebecca noted that the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission found that 97% of drivers are exceeding the speed limit on the Cabot Road, and most are driving 40 mph. She was disappointed that no Selectboard members attended the site visit, and she hopes that the Town will take the VTrans report seriously when it is received. Chris will contact VTrans to express the Selectboard's interest in the project. There were questions at the site visit about enforcement. Chris explained that the Selectboard asked the voters at town meeting for authorization to hire the Vermont State Police but voters denied the request. The representatives from VTrans suggested infrastructure improvements such as side striping and radar speed signs. Bobbi will request that VTrans do the striping when they paint the centerline. Jonathan noted that there are grants available for these improvements. He also stated that the Town could enact an ordinance against engine brakes, as they are very disruptive, especially in the middle of the night.

Review and Approval of Minutes: tabled

Stranahan Town Forest: Rich Phillips addressed the Board about the work the Stranahan Town Forest Committee wants to have done by the Road Crew. The Selectboard sent out a memo to all town boards and committees, asking them to make requests through the Selectboard. Rich reminded the Board that the parking lot project on the Jake Martin Road has been talked about in the past; he is looking for a timetable. Chris explained that the road crew made an area on the side of the road for winter parking so they won't have to plow the new parking area, which will not be big enough to for a town truck with plow. Rich agreed that the parking area doesn't need to be plowed. He would like to have it levelled, and hopes it can be done early next year if not this fall. Chris stated that the road crew won't get to it this year due to time constraints. Rich noted that there is also drainage work that needs to be done. Laurie asked Rich for a list of work so that the road crew can plan for next year. Rich discussed the idea for a brush cutter to allow volunteers to remove brush from the trails. He explained his ideas for having events for senior citizens in the town forest.

Emergency Generator: After discussion, the Board decided to change the scope of work to put the transfer switch on the outside of the Old Schoolhouse Common building. The project will be re-bid after clearance from FEMA and Historic Preservation.

Dog complaint: Vivian Davis attended the meeting to report that she is building a fence and she expects to have it completed by this weekend. She plans to leave the gate open when she is not home but close it when she is home and the dogs are out.

Lanesboro Road: The Town received a complaint about an illegal sign and junk cars on Lanesboro Road. Chris will take a look at the junk car issue and the Zoning Administrator has been notified about the sign. (Clerk's note, after the meeting: the sign is located in Peacham, not Marshfield)

Selectboard Vacancy: The Board discussed potential candidates who might be invited to apply for the position. Bobbi will research the deadline to fill the vacancy.

Johnson Road: Jason and Caitlin Elberson asked if anything that can be done about the water that runs from the road and washes their driveway. Chris will ask the road crew to look at it.

Cows: Chris got a call Sunday night that cattle were out on Route 2. He went to the Leibold residence and found that the cattle were out. Mr. Leibold was notified and he put them back in. The Town Clerk received a report that they were out again Monday night. Bobbi noted that there are complaints about Mr. Leibold's cows in the Selectboard minutes going back decades. The Board asked Bobbi to check with VLCT about what can be done. Laurie noted that in a recent case in southern Vermont where a motorist hit a cow, the animal's owner was found to be liable for the damages.

Cemeteries: The Board signed cemetery deeds for Minsenberger, Tetreault, and Fletcher.

Unlicensed dogs: The Board will ask Constable Arisman to issue tickets to owners of dogs still not licensed.

Expenses, Permits & Payroll: Selectboard members read and signed reports for General Expenses and Payroll. They reviewed correspondence.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bobbi Brimblecombe, Town Clerk

The foregoing is a true copy of the Minutes of the September 5, 2017 Selectboard Meeting.
A True Record. Attest, _____, Town Clerk
